

Bio for Karen Peltz Strauss

Since 1996, Karen Peltz Strauss has served as Legal Counsel for Telecommunications Policy for the National Association of the Deaf (NAD). In this capacity, she has represented individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing on issues concerning telecommunications access. Among other things, Ms. Strauss co-authored several pieces of legislation requiring disability access, including Section 255 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, which mandates the accessibility of telecommunications products and services, Section 305 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, which requires television program providers to make their programming accessible through closed captions, and Title IV of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which requires nationwide telecommunications relay services. Ms. Strauss' work has involved ongoing communications with the FCC, as the implementation of these and other disability laws has taken place. Ms. Strauss

also recently completed a term on the Advisory Committee on the Public Interest Obligations of Digital Television Broadcasters, also known as the Gore Commission.

In addition to her work at the NAD, Ms. Strauss serves as telecommunications legislative consultant for the Council of Organizational Representatives on National Issues Concerning People who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, a coalition of organizations representing the needs of individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing (see description below).

Before working at the NAD, Peltz Strauss served as Supervising Attorney at the National Center for Law and Deafness at Gallaudet University for approximately 11 years.